agricultural items during the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 in US $ terms is as under :—

US $ Million

Items	1997-98	1998-99
Agricultural products	4237	3952
Leather and manufactures	1657	1653
Chemical products	4551	4180
Engineering goods	4435	3804
Electronic hardware	760	499

(c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. In the case of agricultural exports many steps have been taken like providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for developement of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialized transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post harvest handling systems (pack houses); grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units; grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits; arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.

Trade Agreements with USA

3093. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of trade agreements made during the recent visit of US President Clinton;

(b) whether trade balance is in India's favour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) For promoting bilateral trade, India and the United States of America have agreed to set up India-US Commercial Dialogue and its Terms of Reference were signed on 23-3-2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The trade balance is in India's favour and details are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
1997-98	25276.65	13813.69	(+) 11462.96
1998-99	30841.56	15319.25	(+) 15522.31
1999-2000(P) (April-December)	26621.25	12607.52	(+) 14013.73

(P) : Provisional Data.

Decisions Taken in UNCTAD

3094. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at its 10th Session in Bangkok had called for a"true partnership" among the countries on both sides of the development divide, as a prerequisite for globle peace and security; and

(b) if so, what decisions were taken and the resolutions adopted at the UNCTAD Session and in what respects the same go into establish such true partnership between the developed and the developing world?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The theme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)-X held in Bangkok in February, 2000 was "Development strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalisation an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people". The Conference adopted two documents *viz.*

(i) **The Bangkok Declaration** : A political declaration on the experience of globalisation, liberalisation and the future role of UNCTAD; and

(ii) **The Plan of Action** : An outline of the work programme of UNCTAD for the next four years. This document has two parts. Part-I is an analytical section on evaluation of the developmental impact of globalisation while Part-II deals with UNCTAD's engagement highlighting *inter-alia* issues relating to international trade, investment, enterprise, and transfer of technology.